

# **DC Bicycle Advisory Council Meeting**

**November 3, 2004**

## **MINUTES**

### Members in Attendance

Chris Craig  
Jim Sebastian  
Amy Nevel  
Rudi Schreiber  
Jeanie Osburn  
Conrad Smith

### **Maine Avenue Sidewalk**

Chris Craig circulated some photos of the corner of Maine avenue and East Potomac Parkway. This is a very popular sidewalk for cyclists going to and from Haines Point. It is narrow and a “blind corner.”

The group discussed possible solutions: sign? striping? mirror? Jim Sebastian promised to call Alexa Veits of the National Park Service to help solve the problem.

### **Housekeeping**

Amy Nevel explained that we were nearing the end of the year and that we should do some BAC housekeeping and stock-taking. We have no quorum tonight and the subcommittees have not met in months. Some members have not been to a meeting in many months and there may be more positions opening up.

Rudi Schreiber, the BAC chair, said that he would like to resign the chair and switch to the Ward 7 seat. We will have to wait until January to see who is the chair of the City’s Council’s Public Works and Environment Committee. (This the person that appoints the BAC chair).

Mr. Craig also mentioned that Denise D’Amour, the Ward 6 member, will be moving out of town and that we should replace her.

Ms. Nevel also said that no one from the government agencies comes to meetings anymore except Jim Sebastian and Lt. Burke. Mr. Schreiber mentioned that, unfortunately, agency members are prescribed by statute. Ms. Nevel suggested that we generate a list of specific people we’d like to have attend.

Adel Abumohor announced that he was attending for the first time from the Parks and Recreation Department, in place of Ted Pochter and Michael Lucy.

Ms. Nevel member suggested some type of information packet for new members. She also asked about the bylaws. Rudi brought a copy to the meeting.

Ms. Nevel suggested coming up with a work plan. We have lots of subcommittees, but no plan, no ones done anything in terms of moving items. The group discussed in general what workload would be.

The group reviewed the subcommittees: Safety, education and enforcement; Facilities; and Legislation. Ms. Nevel would like to get things going with the subcommittees.

Mr. Sebastian said he was happy to participate in the committees, but only if there were issues to work on. He doesn't want to meet for the sake of meeting for the sake of meeting. The Bike Plan and Map are examples of where the BAC input has really helped.

Mr. Sebastian said the an appropriate area for help is political support, especially since the BAC is appointed by the City Council.

Eric Gilliland of WABA said they could always use more support on issues.

Chris Craig suggested we set priorities for the year.

Ms Nevel suggested we solicit ideas, give people a month or so, summarize what the committees are.

Ms. Nevel suggested sending a letter to the Mayor's office. Mr. Sebastian said it would just come back to him. Letters to the City Council might be more effective. Ms. Nevel suggested writing our respective council member to solicit ideas. Mr. Schreiber said that would not result in new ideas. They would just assign the letter to a staff person for a response.

Jeanie Osburn asked about involving ANCs. Mr. Sebastian said they have been helpful on specific projects. With a few exceptions, BAC members have been noticeably absent from meetings on the Met Branch Trail, bike lanes, other projects.

Mr. Sebastian suggested involving City Council on specific projects such as the Metropolitan Branch Trail. He also gave the example of how members such as Jim Graham have (or his staff) have requested specific bike racks and bike lanes. Somehow we could bring BAC members into this dynamic.

### **Bridge and Sidewalk Maintenance**

Ellen Jones was assigned to follow up on this, but she's not here. The issue is how are we going to keep the bridge sidewalks and other trails clean. Mr. Sebastian has talked to the manager for our maintenance contract that covers major roads and bridges. We don't know when we will have a new contract, but it will definitely include paths/sidewalks.

Jeanie Osburn offered to follow up with the appropriate DC staff to see what can be done in the interim.

## **Project Updates**

**MET BRANCH TRAIL:** Mr. Sebastian said the Concept Plan for the Metropolitan Branch Trail is almost done and should be on the web soon. Other exciting thing is that a piece of the trail at NY Ave metro station will be completed on in a few weeks. On November 20, everyone should come out for grand opening. Mr Sebastian said this is a short piece of trail, but expensive and important.

Mr. Craig asked about the section near Fort Totten. Paul Meijer is dismayed that there will be no bridge over Riggs Road as an alternative in the Environmental Assessment. Mr. Sebastian said that the National Park Service does not want a bridge and that DDOT is going along with it because we're getting their cooperation on the trail through the rest of the park. Instead, trail users will cross at-grade with the existing signal.

Eric Gilliland suggested drafting a resolution for best trail possible, don't know how far it will get with NPS, but alert city council and Congresswoman Norton. Chris Craig offered to write a letter.

**WATTS BRANCH TRAIL.** The Watts Branch Trail has reached the 30% design phase and will and the 65% should be delivered by the end of the month. This is one of the first projects to get started back in 2002 and we should go to construction in 2005.

**ANACOSTIA TRAIL.** The Anacostia Trail, one of the 2 biggest projects, is now in design phase. One section, the west side of the river, will be ready for construction in 2005. An on-street interim route is already signed and will be featured in the District Extra this weekend.

**ROCK CREEK TRAIL.** The Rock Creek trail will be resurfaced in 2006, with in a joint DDOT/NPS project, including a new bridge south of the Zoo tunnel. Design work will start January.

**BIKE LANES:** DDOT has now added 15 miles of new bike lanes since 2001; not yet our goal of 50 miles but we are making progress.

**BIKE ROUTES:** We have added 10 miles of new bike route signs. While this has not received much publicity, it is an important part of the bike plan implementation. We did 2 routes: Mall to Anacostia and Dupont Circle to Chevy Chase. We will do more routes from the bike plan soon.

**BIKE RACKS.** The new racks (300) have arrived and we will begin installing any day. Some of the first will be 5 more at Union Station. The long term plan for Union Station is a bike station: rentals repair, valet parking like ones in Seattle, Chicago, and LA. We are negotiating with consultant for the design of the bike station. It should be up and running by early 2006. It will be located on the west portico where the racks are now. There will not be enough room for showers.

Mr. Craig said that when he visited the new Convention Center there was no bike parking. Mr Sebastian visited the site recently to help them plan for bike racks.

SAFETY. Earlier this month we launch a ped/bike safety campaign in DC Schools. K-2 get pedestrian training and 3-5 get bike training. Three schools per year. DDOT is also participating the Street Smart campaign, now in its third year, aimed at pedestrian safety through various media.

The BIKE PLAN and MAP are almost done, thanks for your help. The next step is to send it to the City Council.